

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 29810 081521Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
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R 081508Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7105
INFO USMISSION USNATO
SECDEF WASHDC
CINCLANT
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 29810

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS

ROME PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR KOMER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, FR
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PAGE 02 PARIS 29810 081521Z

SUBJ: COMMENT ON LETTER FROM FRENCH AMBASSADOR ON
LTDP FOLLOW-THROUGH

REF: USNATO 8162 DTG 0617307 SEP 78

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WE AGREE THAT THE LETTER FROM
AMBASSADOR TINE ON LTDP FOLLOW-THROUGH COULD CREATE

DIFFICULTY CONCERNING FRENCH CONTRIBUTION TO NATO
CIVIL BUDGET. END SUMMARY.

2. WE GENERALLY AGREE WITH US NATO'S EVALUATION OF
TINE'S LETTER (REFTEL). THE CHIEF PROBLEM THAT WE
SEE CONCERNS THE FRENCH POSITION TOWARD THE NATO
CIVIL BUDGET. THE FRENCH POSITION THAT IT DOES NOT
HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN FINANCING EXPENSES DIRECTLY
RELATED TO THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP) FOLLOW-
THROUGH IMPLEMENTED BY MEMBERS OF THE INTEGRATED
MILITARY ORGANIZATION IS LOGICAL FROM THE FRENCH POINT
OF VIEW. ALTHOUGH US NATO STATES THAT THE REDUCTION
IN FRENCH PERCENTAGE SHARE FOR CIVIL BUDGET, IF IT
INSISTED ON NOT PAYING, WOULD BE MINISCULE, THE REAL
PROBLEM WOULD BE THE PRECEDENTIAL EFFECT. WE CAN SEE
THE DANGER IN A PRECEDENT THAT NATIONS NEED NOT CON-
TRIBUTE TO CIVIL BUDGET EXPENSES FOR ACTIVITIES IN
WHICH THEY DO NOT PARTICIPATE.

3. WE WISH TO RAISE A CAUTIONARY NOTE THAT WE CAN
SEE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EVEN WORSE OUTCOME. THAT IS,
THAT A SERIOUS CONTROVERSY OVER WHETHER OR NOT FRANCE
WOULD PAY FOR PART OF THE LTDP FOLLOW-THROUGH IN THE
CIVIL BUDGET WOULD BRING TO THE FOREFRONT IN PARIS
THE FACT THAT SINCE ITS DEPARTURE IN 1966 FROM THE
INTEGRATED MILITARY ORGANIZATION, FRANCE HAS CONTINUED
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PAGE 03 PARIS 29810 081521Z

TO PAY FOR DEFENSE-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE CIVIL
BUDGET. A WELL-PLACED QUAI OFFICIAL REMARKED TO US
SOME TIME AGO THAT ONE PROBLEM WITH LTDP FOLLOW-THROUGH
COULD BE THAT IT WILL ALERT HARD-LINE GAULLISTS IN THE
GOF TO THE FACT THAT FRANCE IS NOW AND HAS BEEN PAYING
FOR DEFENSE-RELATED ACTIVITIES. THAT OFFICIAL SAID
THAT IT IS THE HOPE OF COGNIZANT GOF OFFICIALS THAT THEY
WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO LET THAT SLEEPING DOG LIE.

4. THUS WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE BAD PRECEDENT WHICH COULD
FLOW FROM THE CURRENT FRENCH POSITION, BUT WOULD
RECOMMEND THAT AMBASSADOR BENNETT POINT OUT TO
SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS THE FULL RISK INVOLVED IF A
MAJOR CONTROVERSY ENSUES OVER THE FRENCH POSITION.
HARTMAN

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